

SULPHUR SPRINGS SNOW'S SPRINGS

Address: 7750 North 9950 West (Saratoga Road)

The first organized Mormon exploration into the Lehi area took place in December of 1847. Led by Apostle Parley P. Pratt, a small group crossed over the Point-of-the-Mountain and followed the Jordan River upstream to Utah Lake. In March of 1849 a group led by John S. Higbee, became the first settlers in the valley when they camped on the Provo River.

Initially the Lehi area was considered a poor site for settlement because the only stream of water through the area was dry by late summer. In late July of 1850 a seven-man exploring party from Salt Lake City arrived at a site on American Fork Creek where they anticipated staking claims. A group of settlers already camped in the area, however, claimed water and land rights.

The discouraged explorers returned three miles west to an ancient Indian encampment (west of the present Lehi Rodeo Grounds). They named the anemic stream of water nearby *Dry Creek* (the Indian name was *pah to sho unt quint*) because of the difficulty they had in watering their horses. The following day the men explored the area west to the Jordan River and south to Utah Lake.

Approximately one mile north of the lake and a mile east of the river the men found a spring of clear, though acrid-tasting, water with sufficient grazing ground to support a settlement. They named the promising site *Sulphur Springs* (later *Snow's Springs* in honor of owner William Snow). The group returned to Salt Lake City and filed on the land. The first public announcement of this settlement "on Dry Creek" was made in the 31 August 1850, *Deseret News*.

It is difficult to determine exactly who Lehi's first permanent settlers were. The earliest *Lehi Banner* accounts, from 1891, differ slightly from the 1913

published *History of Lehi*. Compounding the problem is the fact that several groups arrived nearly simultaneously and set up camp in different areas. The Henry Royle and David Clark families, probably the first settlers, came over the Point-of-the-Mountain on 10 September 1850, and followed Dry Creek southward, camping at what they called *Stinkweed Springs*, one mile east of Sulphur Springs.

During the first week of September of 1850, Daniel Cox and his family arrived in Salt Lake City from Council Bluffs, Iowa. When Cox asked Brigham Young where he should settle, Young replied: "Go south and prosper with the Saints in Utah Valley."⁷ The following week the Co family traveled south with the William Fotheringham and Daniel Collett families. They halted at the east bank of Dry Creek, just north of the present intersection of Center and State, and camped under the "willows and cottonwoods."

After they had been camped for three days, the group saw wagons descending the Point-of-the-Mountain. This party--the Joel W. White, John G. White, Clairborne Thomas and Elizabeth T. Moorehead families--instead of continuing eastward towards Dry Creek, turned south towards Sulphur Springs. The Cox-Fotheringham-Collett party then broke camp and followed the others to Sulphur Springs. They were joined a few days later by the Samuel D. White family. Later arrivals included the Charles Hopkins and Israel Evans families, William Fotheringham's aged parents, the Thomas Karren, and Jehial McConnell families.

Men immediately began to fell cottonwood trees along Dry Creek. By late November thirteen log cabins had been arranged into a partial fort surrounding the springs. Fifty-two persons spent the winter in the place.

Sometime before the following winter the settlers moved to higher ground on the north side of Dry Creek immediately north of the present Lehi Rodeo Grounds. This area, initially known as Dry Creek, eventually became *Evansville* sometime in 1851, and ultimately was named *Lehi City*.

During Lehi City's centennial celebration, a monument (created from a huge bolder brought down from the Low Hills), was erected west of Sulphur Springs. A plaque provides a brief narrative of the areas first settlers. The monument was created through cooperative efforts of the Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks association, and the Lehi Centennial Monument Committee (chaired by R. Garn Holbrook).